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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/026,404 05/12/98 ECHLX

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EXAMINER

MARSHALL, A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1631

DATE MAILED:

10/15/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/076,404

Applicant(s)

Ecker et al.

Examiner

Ardin Marschel

Art Unit

1631



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jul 31, 2001
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 19-23 and 26-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 19-23 and 26-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirements.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d)
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e)

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 18) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413) ~~PTO-413~~ 2 copies
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☒ Other Attachment for PTO-948

Applicants' arguments, filed 7/31/01, have been fully considered and they are deemed to be persuasive to overcome previous rejections of record. Rejections and/or objections not reiterated from previous office actions are hereby withdrawn. Unfortunately, upon reconsideration the following rejections and/or objections are newly applied. They constitute the complete set presently being applied to the instant application. As a result of the below summarized newly found grounds of rejection the finality of the office action, mailed 4/10/10, is hereby withdrawn. Also, the amendment, filed 7/31/01, has been entered.

Applicant is hereby notified that the required timing for the correction of drawings has changed. See the last 6 lines on the sheet which is attached entitled "Attachment for PTO-948 (Rev. 03/01 or earlier)". It is noted that applicants have indicated that the previously filed drawings are informal. Formal Drawings are now required in response to this office action. Due to the above notification Applicant is required to submit drawing corrections within the time period set for responding to this Office action. Failure to respond to this requirement may result in abandonment of the instant application or a notice of a failure to fully respond to this Office action.

Claims 19-23 and 26-35 are rejected, as discussed below, under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for

failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 19 indicates in the preamble that a method of "identifying a compound which modulates activity of a target RNA" is the purpose of the claimed method. Consideration of the actual claim steps has revealed that no compound per se is identified in any step. Additionally, the hierarchy of compounds is not related to "modulation of activity". It is noted that binding at various sites around an RNA may occur without affecting activity regarding modulation. Clarification of what compound specifically is being identified in the claim as well as how this relates to an activity via clearer claim wording is requested. Are the claims intended to be broadly inclusive of any binding activity within the RNAs being analyzed, for example, without some biological RNA activity being affected? This is also an issue in the remaining claims which lack clear wording as to carrying out the respective preambles.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 21-23, 26-28, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Romby et al. (abstract only) [J. Biomol. Struct. & Dyn. 5(3):669(1987)].

The abstract of Romby et al. supplies disclosure that various tRNA structures were analyzed in several ways including three-dimensional graphics modeling. This combined with various chemical experiments focused on the structure of the T-loop and residues numbered 54-61. In the abstract in lines 16-19 therein several variants were constructed to analyze the folding activity of this portion of the molecule. The last sentence of the abstract specifically defines this region as a molecular interaction site in that it possesses "an intrinsic conformation...existing primarily without the structural context of the entire tRNA molecule". Additionally, the analysis of variants resulted in defining the hierarchy of which ones contained residues "crucial for the correct interaction between the T- and D-loops". as also required for the instant claim practice.

No claim is allowed.

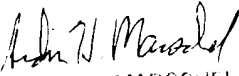
Papers related to this application may be submitted to Technical Center 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Technical Center 1600 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1988), 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993), and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993) (See 37 CFR § 1.6(d)). The CM1 Fax Center number is either (703)308-4242 or (703)305-3014.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ardin Marschel, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (703)308-3894. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Woodward, Ph.D., can be reached on (703)308-4028.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to Patent Analyst, Tina Plunkett, whose telephone number is (703)305-3524 or to the Technical Center receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

October 10, 2001


ARDIN H. MARSCHEL
PRIMARY EXAMINER